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\*Admitted only in Maryland  
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\*Practice limited to  
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April 20, 2006

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Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**Art Unit 1637**

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application  
Application No. 10/600,581; Filed: June 23, 2003  
For: **Molecular Detection Systems Utilizing Reiterative Oligonucleotide  
Synthesis**  
Inventor: Michelle M. HANNA  
Our Ref: 2072.0010002/MAC/SJE

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Reply to Restriction Requirement; and
2. One (1) return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Simon J. Elliott  
Agent for Applicant  
Registration No. 54,083

MAC/SJE:cpn  
Enclosures  
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Michelle M. HANNA

Appl. No.: 10/600,581

Filed: June 23, 2003

For: **Molecular Detection Systems  
Utilizing Reiterative  
Oligonucleotide Synthesis**

Confirmation No.: 8564

Art Unit: 1637

Examiner: Kim, Young J.

Atty. Docket: 2072.0010002/MAC/SJE

**Reply to Restriction Requirement**

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated March 20, 2006, requesting an election of one invention to prosecute in the above-referenced patent application, Applicant hereby provisionally elects to prosecute the invention of Group I, represented by claims 55-71, 113, 114, 130-135 and 138-148. This election is made without prejudice to or disclaimer of the other claims or inventions disclosed.

This election is made *with* traverse.

As an initial matter, Applicant notes that restriction Groups I, II and IV have been classified within the same class and subclass. Hence, a search for art relevant to the examination of Group I will identify art relevant to the examination of Groups II and IV. Thus, even if the restriction requirement was not improper, examination of at least these three Groups together will not constitute an undue burden.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and rejoin the claims of Groups II and IV with those of elected Group I; or, at least, those of Group IV with Group I.

It is not believed that extensions of time are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in accompanying documents. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



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Date: April 20, 2006

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